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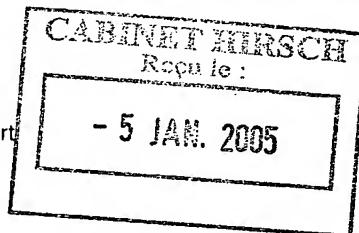
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Demande internationale n°
PCT/FR2003/001118

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09 avril 2003 (09.04.2003)

Déposant

LAFARGE PLATRES etc

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Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR2003/001118	International filing date (day/month/year) 09 avril 2003 (09.04.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 10 avril 2002 (10.04.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B28B 19/00		
Applicant	LAFARGE PLATRES	

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 03 novembre 2003 (03.11.2003)	Date of completion of this report 29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FR2003/001118

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 1-13 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

- the claims:

pages _____ 1-12 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ , as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

- the drawings:

pages _____ 1/5-5/5 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ , as originally filed
 pages _____ , filed with the demand
 pages _____ , filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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International application No. PCT/FR 03/01118
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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 12	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 12	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 12	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1 Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-2 168 803 (JOHN PAGE) 8 August 1939
(1939-08-08)

2 Independent claim 1

2.1 D1, which is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1, describes (references between parentheses relate to this document):

A continuous method for manufacturing plaster boards, in which two sheets of coated paper (11, 18) move to enclose a plaster-based cementing material (12) inside a shaping device (16, 17), creating a composite sheet which sets on two setting conveyors (19) along which are two wedge-shaped strips for making tapered longitudinal edges (cf. Page 1, column 1, lines 7-14) and in which the inserts (21) fastened to the cream-coloured paper (11) are given time to pass through the shaping device (16, 17), and the composite sheet made of cream-coloured paper, grey paper and cementing material is given time to set (page 2, column 1, lines 54-73), and in

which the shearing device cuts the composite sheet in the middle of the mark left by the insert (cf. Page 2, column 2, lines 9-25, figure 1).

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 differs from the subject matter known from D1 in that it includes the following stages:

- continuously prepare expandable, flexible, light inserts between 1 and 2 mm thick and between 5 and 20 mm wide,
- cut said inserts into a length equal to the width of the board being produced minus a value between 0 and 10 cm,
- pre-paste the top surface of said inserts,
- on the fly continuously paste said inserts according to a precise pitch "p" under the cream-coloured paper, positioning these crossways, centered and perpendicular to the movement of the cream-coloured paper,
- paste said inserts to the cream-coloured paper in an area which is necessarily located before the shaping device,
- allow said inserts to be conveyed by the cream-coloured paper,
- adjust the tension of the cream-coloured paper in such a way as to ensure the width of the mark remains between 10 and 18 cm.

The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

2.2 The problem which the present invention is intended to solve is therefore to facilitate the use of inserts of different lengths, for example in case of

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a production change.

- 2.3 The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application is neither known nor suggested by the available prior art. The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore considered to be inventive (PCT Article 33(3)).
- 2.4 Claims 2 to 6 are dependent on claim 1 and, as such, therefore also meet the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.

3 Independent claim 7

- 3.1 D1, which is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 7, describes (references between parentheses relate to this document) :

a device for implementing the method according to any claim 1 to 6, consisting of a line for manufacturing plaster boards in which two sheets of coated paper (11) and (18) unwind and come to enclose a plaster-based cementing material (12) inside a shaping device (16, 17), and make a composite sheet which sets on two setting conveyors (19) provided with beveled strips for horizontal tapering, and comprising a guide layer (10) located between the following-and-pasting device and the shaping device (16, 17), whose function is to protect the inserts (21) from being torn away accidentally, and to facilitate the passage and sliding of said inserts (21) between the following-and-pasting device and the shaping device (13), and comprising an insert (21) stripper (page 2, column 1, lines 62-73; 23, 24) located after the setting

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conveyor (19) and before the shearing device (27) whose function is to strip, on the fly, the inserts pasted under the composite sheet, and comprising a shearing device (27) located after the setting conveyor (19) and after the insert (21) stripper (23, 24) whose function is to shear the composite sheet on each mark (figures 3, 4) left by the inserts (21).

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 7 differs from known document D1 in that it includes the following element:

A following-and-pasting device located in an area before the shaping device, whose function is to prepare the inserts out of a roll of flexible sheet, to come alongside the cream-coloured paper at frequent intervals, to paste said inserts on the fly and accurately under the cream-coloured paper, and to roughen and pre-mark the cream-coloured paper on either side of the insert pasted under said cream-coloured paper.

The subject matter of claim 7 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)). The subject matter of claim 7 is also inventive (PCT Article 33(3)) for the reasons stated in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 above.

- 3.2 Claims 8 to 12 are dependent on claim 7 and therefore, as such, also meet the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.
- 4 The subject matter of claims 1 to 12 is industrially applicable (PCT Article 33(4)).

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- 5 Contrary to PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description does not indicate the relevant prior art disclosed in D1 and does not cite this document.